

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

---

Thursday, August 17. 1710.

---

I Am, as I said before, Writing in a very nice Juncture, and give me leave to tell you, I am Writing upon a very nice Subject——*Viz.* The Nation's Credit— There are those that tell us already, since the Government of Things is taken out of the Hands of the *Whiggs*, they ought to take their Hands also out of the Government; that since their Assistance is not requir'd in the Administration, they should not be requir'd to give Assistance to those that have it— And perhaps, if we were not involv'd in a War with *France*, upon the Success of which depends, not our Prosperity only, but our very Foundation on which we stand, and the Safety of the

whole Protestant Interest in *Europe*, I might say so too.

But, as I said in my last, *this is an Unhappy Crisis*— If we do not help to Pump, the Ship sinks, and we shall all be lost together — If this War is not supported, Popery prevails, French Tyranny prevails, and whole *Europe* sinks.—— It is true, this is not a War of Religion, the *French* would fain have it call'd so— But it is a War which, if it goes wrong, Religion falls of Course; for I never found but Liberty and Religion, especially Protestant Religion, stood always upon one Bottom, and have always sunk and swoom together; and without entering far into that Enquiry, or Examining the



the Kingdoms of Denmark and Swedeland, where some say Liberty is lost, and Religion remains, against the latter part of which some Objections remain; I may refer any considering Person to the Case in Hand — Whether, if *France* Triumphs over this Confederacy, the Liberties and Religion of *Europe* are not ever after at his Mercy — And when once the Protestant Religion comes to lie at *French* Mercy, the Lord have Mercy on us all, we have little to expect from them — There are 200000 living Witnesses, of the Mercy of the *French* King to Protestants — Who are now scatter'd over *Europe* in Exile, for the Testimony of Truth, and for Adhering to the Protestant Religion.

For this Cause, we must distinguish between our Civil and our Religious Interest

— Or rather between our Party-Interests, and our National Interests; between our Inclinations as *Whiggs*, and our Inclinations as Protestants; and be it, that we think our selves, or our Friends, never so ill Treated, we must not take any Measures, that will endanger the General Interests of the Protestant Religion in *Europe*.

This is the Reason why I put the Case in my last, as of a Ship at Sea, in which all the Seamen, what ever private Discontents they may have, whatever ill Usage from the Commanders they may receive, yet all join Hands to work the Ship, all take their turn at the Pump, and use their joint help in every Exigence that concerns the whole; because upon the safety of the Ship, depends the safety of all their Lives — I remember some Gentlemen Travailing in a Stage Coach to the *Barb*, sell out so Foolishly, and so Ungentlemanly, that they could not forbear laying Hands upon one another in the Coach — A Lady that was disturb'd at their Rudeness, and not a little Frighted besides, interpos'd very handsomly, thus — Gentlemen, methinks you might forbear here for your own sakes

— For if you struggle here, you will overturn the Coach — Pray make a Truce till you come to your Journeys-End, and then Fight it out — But if you will Quarrel just now, we will call to

the Coach Man to stop, and turn you bot out of the Coach — The thing was Rational, the Gentlemen made a Truce, and agreed till they came to their Inn, and then they fought it out.

If you will Fight and Scuffle, if you must jostle Parties, and see who are strongest, who has most Money in their Pockets, or most Mettle in their Heads — Pray Gentlemen forbear till the Journey is over, you'll certainly overturn the Coach, if you Quarrel now; let us keep steady till the War is over, and Then — Then! — Why, What then? Then you must do as well as you can — 'Tis time enough to talk of it then — Then you must Fight it out, if you cannot otherwise agree; that is Party-fight, I don't mean a Civil War, God forbid.

I do confess, I fear a War of Parties, and the Consequences may be bad enough — By a War of Parties, I mean, crushing one another, Oppression, Persecution, Imposition, and Repercussions on every Hand, these are as fatal in their turn, as a War of Blood — And no Man shall take more Pains than I, to keep you from these Mischiefs — But give me leave to acknowledge for the present, that at the same time, I fear more the War Abroad; I fear our breaking into Absurd Divisions, so as to withdraw our Hands from the needful help and assistance, such a thing requires — And our Ruining that National Credit, which really is the Support of the War, and without which, it cannot live; this will give *France* the Advantage; this will give us all up a Prey to Tyranny, and Slaves to a Conquer'd, Reduc'd Enemy — Who by the Force of this very Credit was brought to offer Incredible Things, and Sue to you for Peace, after suffering greater Losses, than ever any Monarchy or Empire in the World stood under — Yet if your Credit Dies, he revives — And as your Credit Dies he recovers Life — I think the thing is plain, and needs no Comment — Upon our keeping up our Credit, depends our carrying on, or sinking under the War — He that proposes to carry on the War without Credit, proposes Impossibilities, and indeed talks Nonfense; Speaking of the



thing itself, we had been given up to *France* seven Years agoe, if our Credit had sunk; nay if it had not risen to a Prodigy, to a Bulk our Enemies never fear'd, our Friends never hop'd, and the Wisest Man in the World never thought possible.

I am not so Phlegmatick, as to think it is now sunk, or sinking so low, as nothing can revive it; a Prudent, Punctual, Honourable Management, Just and Clear, without Trick, or without Party-Frauds, will recover Credit, in what Party soever it is found; but Breaches of Confidence, and Breaches in Affection among Subjects, make Breaches always in the National Credit; and not the Sovereign, not the Parliament, not all the Powers on Earth, can avoid it—And therefore prudent Princes always endeavour to keep the Union of their Subjects Affections to one another, and to the Government, as firm as they can, and to make as few Changes as possible, as Things which always stir up Factions, move the Humours, and promote Discontents; and this, no doubt, was the Reason her Majesty formerly press'd her Subjects with so much earnestness to Peace and Union; that Peace and Union being the only Foundation, upon which our Prosperity depended.

And really it is very remarkable to observe, That—Our Credit rose high, our Success Abroad came in, just as that Peace and Union Encreased—Take heed, Gentlemen, it does not decay and go from you again, just as fast as that Peace and Union Declines—And I need not pretend to a Spirit of Prophecie, to tell you plainly, that while you Divide, while Jealousies encrease, while you Distrust one another, Credit cannot Revive, the War cannot go on, Success cannot attend—And where will this end?—Will this let in *France*, or no; will this bring in the Pretender, or no?

This makes me say, let the new Ministry be what or who they will, that's nothing to me; I shall speak as plainly to them, as to you—For I am courting none of you.

If the Ministry do not pursue the true Ends of the Government, by the true

and only Means—I'll still be plain; if they do not Discharge the Affairs of the Treasury Punctually, Justly, Honourably, make good every Contract, pay every thing readily, apply the Treasure properly, and keep time with every Demand—They cannot expect to uphold Credit, and consequently the War will sink in their Hands, and the Nation be undone.

If we, on the other Hand, refrain from the Ministry, Distrust them before they Fail, Challenge them before they Err, Reproach them before they Sio, and Catch at them before they Stumble—We Ruin the publick Credit, not by Necessity, but by Design, and pull our selves down.

Now let the Ministry be what or who they will, I say, neither we, or they, ought to do any thing by Way of Party-Disgust, that should endanger the Publick, for on that we all depend—The Ministry are Accountable, a Superior Authority will hear our Complaints, and if the People are Opprest, the People have a Right to Complain, and a Place to Complain in; but if we by Divisions, Disgusts, and Party-Quarrels, disable the Ministry from Acting, I confess I know not what you will have to Complain of then—For Example—If a Fund is settled, and we won't Credit that Fund—Or lend our Money—I can't for my Life see, how we shall Complain of the Ministry for that—We may Complain of their being put in—And I doubt that would be in vain too, but we can find no Room to Complain of them.

'Tis no more my Work to justify the Ministry before they are Accus'd, than 'tis yours to Condemn them before they Act; but I believe they will meet with both—But my Meaning in all this, is—The Nation is at Stake; let the Ministers of State be who they will that act, we can no more justify to our selves or our Posterity, the Ruining the publick Credit by our Discontent at the Change—Which would be to Ruin the whole Nation, than the Ministry can justify the Ruining it by Mismanagement.



management, Misapplications, and the like.

Therefore I cannot but say again, 'tis our Business and Duty, to join in with any just Methods, for preserving Publick Credit, as the safety, and only safety of the Nation, at such a time as this, tho' the Managers of that Credit were, or are Persons we have the highest Aversion for—The whole depends upon it. we are undone without it.

I shall a little proceed to Enquire, Whether, let her Majesty put in what *High-Flying* kind of People she pleases, they will not all turn *Whiggs* in Management, by the Course of things, and whether it is not impossible to be otherwise?

Whether the *Jacobites*, and Mad-Men of a certain Party, do not begin to be as much disobligh'd at this New Ministry, as they were at the Old, and will be so of Course?

Whether putting in the *Master of Men* never into the Command of the Army, as is Discours'd, can be grateful to those, whose sincere Expectations in these Things, are to overthrow the Protestant Succession?

Lastly, whether, tho' all things at Home were to go against us, as to Parties, as to *Dissenters*, as to *Whiggs*, and the like, we had not better venture it, than see *France*, by these Breaches, Triumphant over the Confederacy, and *French* Popery, Hand in Hand with Tyranny, coming in like a Flood?— And this single Article is the Thing I go upon—— And if the Queen were to put in *Mahometans* into the Ministry, so far as they would Act sincerely to pull down *France*, and keep out the Pretender, so far I would have all honest Men join with them, never enquiring into the Principle from which they Acted.

## ADVERTISEMENT.



**B**ARTLETT of *Goodman's-Fields*, who has been so successful in the Cure of Ruptures, by Steel Spring-Trusses, with Joints or without, so wonderfully light and easie, that one of the largest Size, seldom exceeds 4 Ounces in Weight, and one of the smallest rarely exceeds a quarter of an Ounce.

He is to be spoke-with, the Forenoon

every Day at his House, at the Golden Ball, by the Ship Tavern in Prescot-Street in *Goodmans Field*, London. And the Afternoons at the Golden Ball over against heaphide Conduit, near St. Pauls.

*N. B.* For Privacy, he will attend any gentleman at any Place, near the Places and Hours above-mention'd. Those, who live in the Country, may be supplied by sending Letters.

*N. B.* His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. Christopher Bartlet, lives at his House in *Goodman's-Fields*, and is very skilful in the Business to those of her own Sex.

Printed for and sold by John Baker at the Black-Boy in Pater-Noster-Row. 1710.